



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND TEACHER-TO-TEACHER INITIATIVE



American Stars of Teaching

January 2006

"Committed and effective teachers are essential to making *No Child Left Behind* work for ALL children."

– U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings

Honoring American Stars of Teaching

- The U.S. Department of Education is recognizing "American Stars of Teaching" in order to spotlight highly qualified teachers and honor a very important profession.
- American Stars of Teaching are teachers who are improving student achievement, using innovative strategies to make a difference in the lives of their students. They are honored for their classroom contributions and for successfully incorporating the principles of the *No Child Left Behind Act*.
- The 2004 and 2005 American Stars are listed at www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative. **Nominations for the 2006 round will be accepted from January 11 through April 15.**
- Candidates may be nominated by anyone -- including peers, principals, district personnel, community leaders, parents and students -- in a two-stage nomination process. After the Department receives the initial nomination forms, a follow-up verification form is sent to the principal at the teacher's school. To submit nominations online and learn more, please visit www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative.
- A committee made up of former K-12 teachers working at the Department of Education will select the American Stars of Teaching. One American Star of Teaching will be honored in each state and the District of Columbia.
- American Stars will represent teachers across all grade levels and disciplines and will be honored during school visits by U.S. Department of Education officials.

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative was developed by teachers, for teachers. It is engaging some of the nation's best teachers and education researchers in sharing strategies for raising student achievement and informing teachers of the latest successful research-based practices.

- **eLearning:** The Department's Teacher-to-Teacher website provides educators **Free** access to professional development courses, anytime, anywhere. eLearning supports mastery of academic content; models teaching strategies that have been successful in the classroom; and provides a classroom application component, follow-up activities and an online assessment. It's simple: Access the website (www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative), enroll, complete the course, take an assessment and complete follow-up activities, and incorporate what you learn in the classroom. Principals may use an implementation rubric developed for each session. These sessions are from the recent highly successful Teacher-to-Teacher workshops.
- **Teacher Workshops:** After an overwhelmingly positive response to workshops in 2004 and 2005, the U.S. Department of Education is expanding this popular summer program. Locations and dates will be announced soon. These workshop sessions are **Free** and feature some of the best teachers and education officials sharing research-based practices that have been successfully applied in the classroom. Information can be found at www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative.
- **Teacher Updates:** Teachers may sign up at www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative to receive electronic updates from the U.S. Department of Education. These short "e-bytes" address some of the hot topics from our teacher outreach and provide links to resources so teachers may learn about the latest policies, research and professional issues impacting the classroom.